

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

February 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting held both via ZOOM and in person at Siloam United Church

Present:

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Catherine Glover (Chair), Steve Britton (Regional Representative), John Davidson (Outreach and Social Justice), Dave Dunham (Property), Dick Huffman (Treasurer and Congregational Resources) Pauline Newton (M&P), Betty Ross (Rose Birrell) Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees and Communications), Peggy Rivard (Congregational Life and Secretary)

Regrets: Harla O'Neill

Welcome:

Chair Glover welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her thanks to Dave Dunham for acting as Chair during her recent recuperation time.

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Sheila opened the meeting with the moving benediction offered at the recent Joint Congregational Meeting of First-St. Andrews, Metropolitan and Siloam.

Opening Reflection:

Chair Glover used excerpts from an article that appeared in Broadview magazine which emphasized the importance of having a place where a queer person can go and be welcomed, accepted and made to feel valued.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Moved by Betty Ross and seconded by Allyn Todd that the minutes of the January 18, 2022 Council meeting be approved as circulated. CARRIED

Agenda Amendments and Approval:

MOTION: Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Pauline Newton that the agenda and amendments to the agenda be approved. CARRIED

Correspondence:

A thank-you card was received from Chair Glover thanking the Siloam Council members for flowers, kind thoughts and prayers that were sent her way during her health recovery.

Continuing Business:

Financial Update

Dick Huffman reported that the final figures for 2021 show a net gain of income over expenses of \$10 188.74.

Budget 2022 Finalization

Two separate meetings were held in January to allow five council members to work further on the 2022 budget details. More refinements were made through discussion at this meeting and final numbers calculated. Many thanks were extended to Dick Huffman for the time he has given to develop this budget.

MOTION: Moved by Dick Huffman and seconded by Margaret Smith that the budget agreed upon and supported by Council be presented at the Annual General Meeting. CARRIED

Property Committee

Dave Dunham indicated that a railing at the front of the church should be completed by next week. Our thanks to Bruce McGauley for his work on this project.

At this time, the Property Committee members feel it would be unwise for Siloam to consider renting the facilities to other churches based on information Dave received when speaking to property people from several churches who did try renting space. The committee also felt it wise to turn down many different groups who are asking to use the facilities but pay no fee.

Dave indicated that Siloam's current rental rates are standard with those charged by other facilities.

New Business:

Re-Opening

As of March 1 and per provincial health guidelines, Siloam will be able to operate at full capacity with no screening and no sign-ins. Masks will be required.

Bookkeeper attendance at Council Meetings

To try and cut down the amount of time required by Dick Huffman to work on Siloam's finances, it was announced that we will ask our bookkeeper to give a brief financial report at future Council meetings. This presentation would be virtual and given at the very beginning of each meeting.

Date for AGM

The Annual General Meeting for Siloam will be held immediately after the service on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

Incorporation

Chair Glover indicated that she has found, when applying for various grants, that many organizations require that the recipient be incorporated. The United Church Manual stipulates that a Council can incorporate. Allyn Todd and Dave Dunham are exploring this possibility for us.

Grant Opportunities

Prior to the meeting, council members received information about the various grants Chair Glover is applying for. **MOTION:** Moved by Betty Ross and seconded by Dave Dunham that Council approve Chair Glover to proceed with said grant applications. CARRIED

Chili Dinner/Irish Stew Dinner

Rev. Sheila and Richard Macgregor issued a summary of the Valentine's Chili Fundraiser which netted a profit of \$3 296.17.

An Irish Stew dinner will be offered on March 19, catered by Linda Arthur and distributed via pickup at the church.

Completion of Annual Reports

Committees were reminded that a copy of their yearly report needs to be submitted to Wendy Sibley as soon as possible.

2022 Giving Campaign/Mission and Outreach Pledge

John Davidson suggested that the Lenten Outreach Project for Siloam be directed at supporting Siloam's Outreach Budget. John will speak to his committee's members about this at their next meeting. The campaign would run during the Lenten season and would finish at Easter.

United Property Resource Corporation

This entity is a division of the United Church of Canada Foundation. Its members are real estate people, financial advisors and business people who can offer needed information to churches who may be unable to carry on as a church but don't want to close. Suggestions are offered on how it would be possible to re-develop the

building and property for social good. It was pointed out that there is always the possibility that Siloam might be in need of such help years from now. It would be prudent for us to make ourselves aware of this group's work. Chair Glover will take this to the Congregational Resources Committee as an information item and let them know that White Oaks UC is currently working with this group.

Announcements

Margaret Smith and the members of Spiritual Life & Worship are planning a service for Siloam's 165th Anniversary to be held on Sunday, October 16, 2022. Council members were asked to present suggestions of a possible guest speaker for the event to Margaret before the committee's February 27th meeting.

Nominations: Update on Committee Chairs and Members

Each committee is asked to submit to Wendy Sibley a list of the names of members of the committee and its chair.

Although we have new members to join the Congregational Resources Committee, we still do not have a volunteer to take on the position of Treasurer, Chair or Chair-Elect.

Preparations for 165th Anniversary

A committee for this event needs to be formed. **ACTION** > Each committee is asked to appoint a member to be on the anniversary planning committee. These names should be given to Chair Glover asap. Chair Glover's daughter-in-law will arrange a Broadway-style gala celebration to be presented at the church on October 15.

Details are being worked out for a concert featuring Shane Cook on September 18.

Staff/Committee Reports

MOTION: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Dave Dunham that the Communications Committee install light diffusing panels in the sanctuary skylight wells in order to reduce the discomfort experienced by congregants sitting in several pews near the front which are often directly in the sunlight, and also in order to reduce the extreme light balance difficulties when video-recording worship services on sunny days. Cost will be approximately \$3 000 to be provided by the Trustees as a capital improvement. CARRIED

Discussion was held about the possibility of a spring yard sale. People involved in previous sales will be contacted and surveyed about their degree of involvement.

Betty Ross announced that the Rose Birrell ladies will be offering a ham and scallop potato take-out dinner on April 3. The cost will be \$20 and some proceeds of the profit will be given directly to the church.

Closing Prayer

Chair Glover offered a closing prayer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Catherine Glover, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary